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17 December 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian

End of Term Letter – Testing and Returning to School

I am writing to thank you for all your support this academic year. This half term has been an incredibly challenging one as we have battled with absences from both staff and students. The students have been working incredibly hard, despite all the challenges we face.

Year 11 students received an amazing set of PPE results. I have been so impressed with the mature approach they have taken to this. It will put them in good stead for the upcoming summer examinations. I also wish Year 13 the best of luck as they prepare for their prelims in January. I also wish the Year 12 Vocational students the very best of luck in their external examinations in January.

This term also saw us receive a reaccreditation of the NACE Challenge Award. This recognises our approach to school wide high-quality provision for our more able learners within a context of challenge for all.

During Anti Bullying Week, 45 Year 7 students were invited to watch 'Wicked' at the Apollo Victoria Theatre, in recognition of the work we have done in school on our Anti Bullying Programme. There are many messages regarding finding common ground with others and kindness, which was the theme of Anti Bullying Week this year.

There are too many enrichment activities to mention but it has been so pleasing to see a lot of extra curricular events return. I would like to acknowledge the staff who provide these on top of their day job. Well done to all the students taking part – keep it up!

A huge well done to all those students who took part in the Performing Arts Winter Celebration Concert. Whilst it was a shame that we had to make this event virtual, it was amazing to see so many people attending and enjoying the event. It was a great opportunity to see how incredibly talented our students are. Speaking of winter celebrations, look at the amazing entries we had to our Christmas card competition at the end of this letter.

Above all, this term has reinforced how wonderful our school and community is – well done to every student, you are amazing!

Testing

You may be aware that schools have been asked to carry out mass asymptomatic testing again at the start of term. The first day of the new term is Tuesday 4 January, however only the relevant year groups being invited in for testing during this day will be expected in. On the days where your child has yet to return to school, in most cases live lessons will be carried out for your child, except on the day they are taking part in testing, in which case work will be set on google classroom for this time. Please be aware that staff may not wish to use their webcams during live lessons.

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The testing schedule can be found here.

If you give consent for your child to take part in this, please give your consent by filling in this form:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfL4GQv7SPb8JIInH8YNfJA1_jxsDqGljwIzBL0 Wn-X2ni1aw/formResponse

As always, I will write to you if anything changes over the Christmas holidays.

Finally, I am pleased to report our 2022-2023 term dates are now listed on our website here.

I wish you all a wonderful Christmas break and look forward to welcoming students back on the day after their year group has been tested.

Yours sincerely

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Mr P Gibson Headteacher









Merry Christmas

